



ARC MUN

Aristotelio College Model United Nations

SPECIAL POLITICAL & DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (SPEC POL)

“Slavery Reparations” Study Guide

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1. Welcoming Letter

Dear delegates,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to this year's Arc MUN 2020 . We are honored to be serving as members of the Board of the Special, Political and Decolonization Committee and we look forward to meeting and working with you all. We are convinced that you will meet the expectations of the countries you are assigned to represent. It is highly advised to conduct a thorough examination on your country's position concerning the matter discussed and elaborate on your key national policies within the context of the position paper you will be requested to deliver before the conference. The goal is to find practical and realistic solutions that will align with the mandate of our committee. This study guide aims at helping you acquire a better insight into the topic of "Slavery reparations" and offers you a starting point for your research. This is a very important issue, because even though this topic has been on the headlines in the past , nothing has changed and no government has done justice to the descendants of trafficked and enslaved Africans.

Do not hesitate to contact us and ask for help, as we are here to assist you and make your MUN experience an enjoyable and unforgettable one.

Good luck with your preparation!

The Board of the Special, Political and Decolonization Committee

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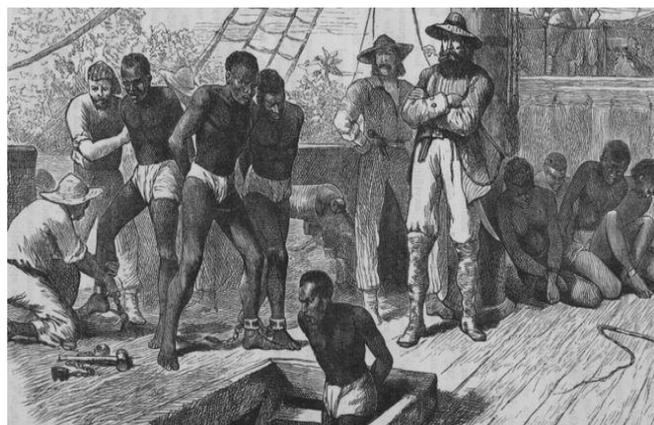
2. Introduction to the Committee

The 4th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), is one of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. Along with the other five main Committees of the United Nations General Assembly, it was established in 1947 and it follows the rules of the United Nations General Assembly. It was created in the aftermath of World War II in order to deal with non-independent territories under the supervision of the UN. This committee considers a broad range of issues covering a cluster of five decolonization-related agenda items, the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, a comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations, as well as a review of special political missions.¹

3. Introduction to the Topic

The topic under discussion is the Slavery reparations of the Africans, who were trafficked and traded by Europeans as slaves to the Americans from the 15th until the late 18th century. The idea of amends for past injustices and persistent disparities is again in the spotlight of interest. Supporters of the

movement for reparations are demanding the compensation of the descendants of the African slaves, for all the hostilities they have suffered, and the social racism and exclusion African minorities have been subjected to and faced throughout the centuries. On the other hand, there are those who believe that the past is in the past and no amount of money could do justice to victims of slavery, whose



integrity and basic human rights were infringed. The debate revolves around the question whether the descendants of the old African slaves are entitled or not to demand any kind of reparation, with that being either a compensatory payment, or any other political, social or even moral form of reparation. The solutions proposed need to be based on these pillars, considering the mandate of the committee.²

¹ Un.org. (2019). *UN General Assembly - Fourth Committee - Special Political and Decolonization*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

² Nytimes.com. (2019). *What Reparations for Slavery Might Look Like in 2019*. [online] Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/23/business/economy/reparations-slavery.html> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

4. Definition of Key Terms

4.1 Slave:

A person who works very hard without remuneration or appreciation. Also, especially in the past, the term slave could be defined as a person who is in the legal property of another and is forced to obey them.³

4.2 Reparation:

Reparation is the action of making amends for a wrong one has done, by providing payment or other assistance to those, who have been wronged. While reparations are usually financial, there are other forms of it as well, such as social reparations, which may refer to the social status of an individual or a social group.⁴

4.3 Atlantic Slave Trade:

The term "Atlantic Slave Trade" refers to the transportation by slave traders of enslaved African people, mainly to the Americas. The Atlantic Slave Trade developed after trade contacts were established between the "Old World" (Afro-Eurasia) and the "New World" (the Americas) that existed from the 16th to the 19th centuries.⁵

4.4. Colonization:

The action or process of settling among and establishing control over the indigenous people of an area. The term colonization could also refer to the action of appropriating a place or domain for one's own use.⁶

³ Dictionary.cambridge.org. (2019). *SLAVE | definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary*. [online] Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/slave> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

⁴ Merriam-webster.com. (2019). *Definition of REPARATION*. [online] Available at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reparation> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

⁵ Encyclopedia Britannica. (2019). *transatlantic slave trade | History & Facts*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/transatlantic-slave-trade> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

⁶ Lexico Dictionaries | English. (2019). *Colonization | Definition of Colonization by Lexico*. [online] Available at: <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/colonization> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

5. Historical Background

The Atlantic or Transatlantic Slave Trade was conducted from the 15th to the mid-18th century by Europeans, who bought and shipped African slaves mainly to the Americas. It is estimated that between 10 to 17 million Africans were enslaved and deported from their homes, without including the slaves, who died by resisting the capture, before the embarkation or even one year after their arrival at the destination. Another 15% of the total amount of the slaves transported to the Americas died during the trip, as they were packed in ships, living under hellish conditions in small crowded rooms without ventilation. Except for that, there existed rampant diseases like measles, smallpox, influenza, scurvy and dysentery. Many times, members of the crew, in order to halt the spread of diseases, were commanded to throw slaves overboard. It is obvious that slaves were treated as human cargo.⁷

The Atlantic Trade is also known as the Triangular Trade, since it connected the economies of three continents, by enhancing the preservation of a capitalistic system of production, sale and consumption and a culture that revolves around the purchase of goods. First of all, Africans were enslaved by Africans as a form of criminal sentence. Then Africans traded them to Europeans in exchange for goods like metal tools, guns, gun powder, textiles, pearls and other manufactured goods, as well as rum. For those Africans, slaves were a valuable form of property, because most of the land consisted state property. Consequently, through the trade, Europeans were able to cover the massive demand of labor in their colonies throughout the American continent. Specifically, there was great need of laborers for sugarcane, tobacco, cotton plantations. European traders were unable to afford paid laborers, as the necessary workforce was huge. Besides that, captured native Americans were torn apart by disease and conflict. Thus, the colonizers turned to Africa to provide cheap labor in the form of slaves. In this way, the colonizers would produce fast and with low cost tones of agricultural products, which would later import in their countries. The main triangular trading countries were Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, France and England.⁸

This phenomenal trade, which lasted more than four centuries, was rested upon a system of perpetual enslavement of people, who were bought and sold as chattel, movable property. This system required fresh captives in order to be effective and that was possible through the abduction and enslavement of the children born by slaves. The fragile families

⁷ Encyclopedia Britannica. (2019). *transatlantic slave trade | History & Facts*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/transatlantic-slave-trade> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

⁸ Unesco.org. (2019). *Transatlantic Slave Trade | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*. [online] Available at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/slave-route/transatlantic-slave-trade/> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

formed by slaves, were bound to suffer, since the traders used to separate the couples or even the parents from their kids. Women were routinely raped and sexually abused by members of the crew on the ships or by the rulers of the communes and they were doomed to carry the children of their abusers. On the other hand, male slaves were working to death. Deprived of sleep and basic sanitary conditions, slaves were forced to carry out all types of work from housework to skilled crafts work or even take up tasks as sailors, farmers and stock breeders. The disobedient slaves had to face the fate of getting tortured, beaten or whipped, and in extreme cases were roasted alive and hanged.⁹

African slaves attempted several times to shake off the shackles of slavery and gain their personal freedom by revolting. However, there existed different kinds of motives at a time, with other insurrections setting as their primary modest goal better conditions of work or the time and the freedom to work part-time, so as to be able to sustain their families. Few slave rebellions were systematically planned, and most were impulsive. They were mostly frequent in the regions of the Caribbean and Latin America.¹⁰ One of the first rebellions was held in the Viceroyalty of New Spain (present-day Mexico), where slaves forced the Spanish to agree on a treaty that granted them their freedom. Another important rebellion led to “the Baptist war” in Jamaica. It was one of the largest slave rebellions in the British West Indies that contributed to Britain’s abolition of slavery in 1833. Last but not least, notable is, also, the Haitian Revolution, which began as a slave revolt and ended with the founding of an independent state, Haiti, after the abolition of slavery by France in the late 18th century. Many rebellions took place, but just a few of them proved to be successful.¹¹

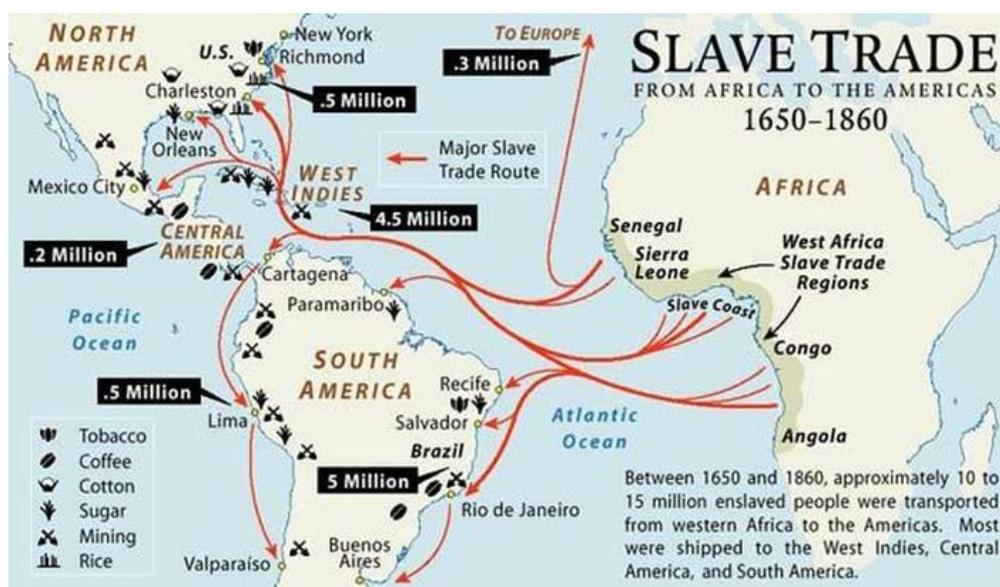
As slavery was gradually getting abolished by the colonizing states, the matter of slave reparations was always being brought on the table of negotiations in many corners of the world with the states, who used to constitute European colonies, demanding compensation from the colonizers. The topic was reintroduced with the article "The Case for Reparations," in 2014, written by writer Ta-Nehisi Coates. Since then, the topic of reparations is being brought up by political figures, who are trying to gain the trust and support of minorities -descendants of the old African slaves- in times of elections. At the moment, slavery reparations are once again on the headlines and provoke heated debates, as we are on the way to the American Presidential Elections of 2020. Public opinion is divided upon the matter with political division being caused within the old

⁹ Sahistory.org.za. (2019). *The Atlantic slave trade | South African History Online*. [online] Available at: <https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/atlantic-slave-trade> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

¹⁰ Encyclopedia Britannica. (2019). *Slave rebellions*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/slave-rebellions> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

¹¹ HISTORY. (2019). *7 Famous Slave Revolts*. [online] Available at: <https://www.history.com/news/7-famous-slave-revolts> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

colonizing states. The arguments used to support each side will be presented thoroughly in the next chapter.¹²



6. Discussion of the topic

Arguments for the Slavery Reparations

In the issue of slavery reparation there is a clear separation between the nations in favor of reparations and the ones against them. Starting off with the arguments in favor of financial compensation for former slaves, one has to understand that providing a financial payoff to former slaves has a social, political and financial impact on their daily life. In many societies nowadays one notices rising inequality among the different ethnic groups, which co-exist within a country. This inequality can be clearly noticed, as far as the wealth gap is concerned. In 1880, African Americans had 1 dollar for 36 dollars whites had. This huge gap became smaller in 1910 when African Americans had 1 dollar for every 16 dollars whites had. For all that, the wealth gap was noticeable. Therefore one realizes that the provision of slavery reparations will narrow the racial wealth divide which will be a huge step towards the existing injustice.

¹² Doug Criss, C. (2019). *People are again talking about slavery reparations. But it's a complex and thorny issue.* [online] CNN. Available at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/14/politics/slavery-reparations-explainer-trnd/index.html> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

Tightly connected with the low income of African Americans, is their social status and their ability to climb the social ladder. For many years, African Americans were discouraged from accumulating wealth. The aforementioned improvement in their financial status is partially due to the fact that after 350 years of constitutionalised violence against African Americans in the US, they were finally able to get a job and start having a stable income. The main power of a reparations plan is that it carries moral weight that goes beyond mere economic restitution. Reparations are not “financial assistance”, they are payment of a debt that has never been paid. These, thus, pave the way for an emotional and psychological healing for former enslaved groups. Minorities like the African Americans have experienced psychological and physical violence for many years. In the past they were excluded from the social and the political life and they were not even allowed to visit places within the United States. They were living under the line of poverty and were treated as slaves even after the legal abolition of slavery. Thus, by providing financial compensation to the descendants of these people is like paying off for the years of mistreatment. Moreover, these people are still facing racism and are in the bottom of the social hierarchy. This financial aid will support them and will partly repair their belittling status. Lastly, the reparations mark a compensation to a whole nation rather than to an individual.¹³

Arguments against the slavery reparations

Even though the majority of countries stand in favor of slavery reparations, there have been many arguments opposed against them. Firstly, since slavery has been abolished and slaves no longer exist, there has not been declared who deserves to get these reparations or even consider giving people reparations. Furthermore, it is frequently discussed whether the act of reparations will work in the first place, since the matter is too vague and complicated. Additionally, modern forms of slavery such as sexual slavery, white flesh trade, and forced labor are problems that need to be solved immediately which makes the matter of reparations less important since slavery as we know it these days has not been completely eradicated. Consequently, it is more important to ensure that slavery no longer occurs than giving reparations to former slaves.

It is imperative to mention the case of Japanese-Americans and African-Americans. Even though the Japanese American reparations movement has been successful, the African American movement has had significantly less success. The reason the Japanese American movement succeeded was because the reparations had occurred under certain

¹³ Marianne2020.com. (2019). *The Reparations Plan | Marianne Williamson 2020*. [online] Available at: <https://www.marianne2020.com/issues/the-reparations-plan> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

conditions. Some examples include the relatively small number of victims involved. In addition, most of the victims were alive and the amount paid was relatively low (\$20,000 for each of the 80.000 living survivors.) In contrast to the case of African Americans, the Japanese American movement was based on reasonable reparations, considering the low amount of money that was given, the small number of victims and the short period of time where the events took place (1942-1945). On the other hand, the African American reparations are very hard to occur. It is difficult to identify which people of African descent in the U.S. today are the descendants of enslaved people. If all descendants are considered worthy of reparations, regardless of the number of generations since their ancestors were enslaved, then the number might be too large to cover financially. All the direct victims are long deceased and there is no single individual or group of people, who can be considered as the chosen to be benefited by any reparations.¹⁴¹⁵

Who will be compensated?

The main question arisen is who will be entitled to receive the reparations. The direct victims of enslavement are long dead and nowadays their descendants reach millions. There are no symbolic minorities that can be considered qualified for reparations, since the African-American communities at the moment include a remarkable number of more recent migrants. So, it is difficult to identify the people of African descent, who are linked to the old enslaved Africans. Furthermore, many people question the validity of the identification of the descendants. There are those, who support the idea of searching the identity of old slaves in sources like military services, pension records, slave-ship manifests and estate and inheritance documents. There are others like William A. Darity Jr., an economist at Duke University and a leading scholar on reparations, who claims that entitled for reparations should be only the people, who have identified as African-Americans in any legal document within a period of 10 years before the approval of any reparations.¹⁶ In this way, it would be easier to track down the scammers, who want to be benefited by the amends and the real descendants, who should be eligible to get compensated.¹⁷

¹⁴ The Conversation. (2019). *Why Japanese-Americans received reparations and African-Americans are still waiting*. [online] Available at: <http://theconversation.com/why-japanese-americans-received-reparations-and-african-americans-are-still-waiting-119580> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

¹⁵ Anon, (2019). [online] Available at: https://www.jstor.org/stable/3598349?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

¹⁶ Howard-Hassmann, R. (2019). *Why Japanese-Americans received reparations and African-Americans are still waiting*. [online] Quartz. Available at: <https://qz.com/1670434/why-african-americans-are-still-waiting-for-slavery-reparations/> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

¹⁷ Nytimes.com. (2019). *What Reparations for Slavery Might Look Like in 2019*. [online] Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/23/business/economy/reparations-slavery.html> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

How will the reparations be made?

There is no consensus regarding the most efficient and appropriate way to grant any reparations. The compensations don't have to be a direct payment to the eligible recipients in a monetary form. It is financially impossible for a state to reimburse thousands of millions of accredited with the right to receive compensation descendants. Thus, the responsible to compensate states should turn towards long-term investments in education, housing and businesses of the African minorities, by providing them with necessary subsidies. More specifically, for example in the field of education, the states could give the chance to young descendants to attend universities and colleges free of charge, by providing them any kind of financial support. Moreover, the goal is to bridge the wealth gap inside the societies among the black and white populations, but even among the "rich North" (countries that have been benefited by the trade of slaves in the past) and the "poor South" (the African continent that even today struggles to reach the ongoing global economic advancement).¹⁸ First of all, the ex-colonizing states could proceed to the cancellation of the colonial debt, owed by the old trading African states. Bridging the gap could be, also, feasible by ensuring the economic independence of these minorities. Since the states, like the United States, have failed to do so by giving away land as promised, they could now calculate the value of funds of those long-ago promised land fields. Eligible recipients could then apply and be granted with awards from the calculated funds to support their asset-building activities, including homeownership or business development.¹⁹ Those funds could, also, be devoted to community or institution-based purposes. Last but not least, as Chuck Collins, an author and a program director at the Institute for Policy Studies, has stated, reparation funds could be used for the creation of museums and historical exhibits on slavery that will pay homage to the victims of the atrocities perpetrated against the African slaves.²⁰ They will, also, assist to the debunking of "the white supremacy myth" and constitute a reminder of the wrongdoings that should not be repeated in the future.^{21 22}

¹⁸ Nytimes.com. (2019). *What Reparations for Slavery Might Look Like in 2019*. [online] Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/23/business/economy/reparations-slavery.html> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

¹⁹ National Archives. (2019). *No Pensions for Ex-Slaves*. [online] Available at: <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/summer/slave-pension.html> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

²⁰ BBC News. (2019). *Should black Americans get slavery reparations?*. [online] Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-47643630> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

²¹ NBC News. (2019). *Opinion | What reparations for America's slave descendants might realistically look like*. [online] Available at: <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/how-reparations-american-descendants-slavery-could-narrow-racial-wealth-divide-ncna1019691> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

By whom would the reparations be granted?

According to popular belief, there are three main sources, from which the entitled groups could demand the reparations. Firstly, the ex-colonizing states that fostered and enhanced the slavery regime, should be held accountable for their actions of the past, by recognizing their involvement and by compensating in any form these affected communities. On the other hand, there are the private companies, which were financially benefited in the production and selling of their products by using slaves. These companies should face the consequences of their actions and get prosecuted for compensating the aggrieved. Lastly, there are those, who insist that the wealthy families of the American South belong to those, who should make up for the maltreatment of the hundreds of slaves they used to own. They owe a major amount of their wealth to the slaves, who worked tirelessly, under extreme and unhealthy conditions for their services.²³

The difference between compensated emancipations and reparations

Compensated emancipations are the monetary compensations given to slave owners by a state, with the goal to end slavery. It was a form of reimbursement for the owners of slaves, based on the value of the working force they were losing, once slavery was abolished. They often received compensation from local, colonial and state legislatures, in times of turmoil, when, for example, enslaved women and men ran away, participated in revolts or were executed for crimes. It is crystal clear that slave owners were always the primary beneficiaries of public generosity, while slaves were striving to cover their basic needs and make a fresh start, when gaining their freedom.²⁴ Consequently, we are discussing a continuous state of injustice for slaves, as even when they were set free, they were bound to start from point zero. Thus, reparations, as explained above, constitute the necessary means of restitution for the victims of slavery. All those, who were subjected to

²² Anon, (2019). [online] Available at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/14/politics/slavery-reparations-explainer-trnd/index.htm> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

²³ Doug Criss, C. (2019). *People are again talking about slavery reparations. But it's a complex and thorny issue.* [online] CNN. Available at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/14/politics/slavery-reparations-explainer-trnd/index.html> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

²⁴ Nytimes.com. (2019). *Opinion | When Slaveowners Got Reparations.* [online] Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/16/opinion/when-slaveowners-got-reparations.html> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

the violent and extreme conditions of enslavement are now rewarded morally, socially, politically and financially, even at the minimum.²⁵

7. Legal Framework

When examining the topic of slavery reparations, it is vital to get informed about the already existing legal framework. There are two key-points that need to be taken into consideration, when thinking about legal documents. Firstly, the legal documents that impose sanctions to nations, where there is still slavery and secondly, those that urge the payment of reparations to people/groups that have been victims of slavery. One has to decide about who will be responsible for regulating and deciding the amount of money given to the victims or under which criteria will someone guarantee this right and other related uprising questions. In this section you can find information about existing UN Resolutions and Reports, Acts and Conventions by different countries as well as international regulations concerning the matter at hand.

First of all, it is really important to mention some treaties and conventions which initiated the Abolition of slavery worldwide.

League of Nations

In 1926, the member states of the League of Nations signed the Slavery Convention act, in order reinforce the suppression of international slavery.²⁶

United States of America

In the United States of America, there was a long battle of the African slaves, who wanted to restore their rights. It all started with the American Civil Rights Movement, which were mass protests against racial segregation and discrimination during the mid 1950s. The African Americans resisted racial oppression and abolished the institution of slavery. Ex-African slaves were emancipated as a result of the Civil War (1861-1865) and were then

²⁵ National Archives. (2019). *Slavery and Emancipation in the Nation's Capital*. [online] Available at: <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/spring/dcsavery.html> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

²⁶ Ohchr.org. (2019). *OHCHR | Slavery Convention*. [online] Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/SlaveryConvention.aspx> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

granted basic civil rights through the passage of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the US Constitution.²⁷

United Kingdom

At the end of the 19th century many colonies started showing growing desire for independence. When a nation declared its independence it was no longer subjugated to the British Empire. After the end of the British Empire follows the creation of the Commonwealth of nations – the association of the former British territories-, which aims to advance human rights and also grant political advantages for its member states. The UK Slavery Abolition Act in 1833, marks the end of slavery throughout the British Empire.

Lastly, in the United Kingdom there the Anti- Slavery International organization is fighting against slavery and human trafficking since its foundation in 1839.²⁸

South Africa

From 1948 to 1990 there was a system of “institutionalized racial segregation” called ***Apartheid***, which practically stated that the nation’s minority white population was superior to the colored Africans. With the end of this system equality was granted in name only.²⁹

8. International Treaties that forbid slavery in the past

The Brussels Act (1890)

The Brussels Act was consisted of a number of anti-slavery measures, which was signed in order to "put an end to Negro Slave Trade by land as well as by sea, and to improve the

²⁷ U-s-history.com. (2019). *Jim Crow Laws*. [online] Available at: <https://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1559.html> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

²⁸ Encyclopedia Britannica. (2019). *Slavery Abolition Act | History & Impact*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Slavery-Abolition-Act> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2019].

²⁹ Encyclopedia Britannica. (2019). *apartheid | Definition, Facts, Beginning, & End*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/apartheid> [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

moral and material conditions of existence of the native races". This Act is exceptionally important, since its measures are, also, applicable to forms of modern day slavery.³⁰

The International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Trade (1904)

This multilateral treaty was signed in an attempt to deal with slavery and human trafficking.³¹

The Forced Labor Convention (1930,US, China, Afghanistan)

This Convention was proposed by the International Labor Organization and was one of the first legal documents that addressed forms of modern day slavery. Some years later, the ILO addressed the issue of child labor as well with the **Convention against the Worst Forms of Child Labor**. This Convention includes regulations for issues such as but not limited to child work and child prostitution.³²

9. Nowadays

It is widely known that two form of modern day slavery are forced/child labor and human trafficking, a crime which violates fundamental human rights. It is a form of persons "trade" which is really intense in countries like China, Bangladesh, the Philippines and other industrial and developing countries.³³

Timeline of Events

Event/Time	Description of Event
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³⁰ Oxfordreference.com. (2019). *Brussels Act, Conference - Oxford Reference*. [online] Available at: <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095532392> [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

³¹ Treaties.un.org. (2019). *UNTC*. [online] Available at: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=VII-9&chapter=7&clang=_en [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

³² Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings - European Commission. (2019). *The Forced Labour Convention (C29) - Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings European Commission*. [online] Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/legislation-and-case-law-international-legislation-united-nations/forced-labour-convention-c29-0_en [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

³³ Project, B. (2019). *6 Types of Modern Day Slavery That Cannot Be Ignored*. [online] The Borgen Project. Available at: <https://borgenproject.org/the-six-types-of-modern-day-slavery/> [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

UN Slavery Convention of 1926	The aim of the Convention was to affirm and advance slavery abolition and slave trade
1981	Slavery officially becomes illegal in all countries
1988	Report of the Working Group on Slavery of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities
2014	Protocol on the Forced Labour Convention
2015	Modern Slavery Act in the United Kingdom

10. Previous attempts to solve the issue

National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC)

The NAARC is an organization in the United States of America, which fights for the financial payoff of former slaves and their smooth emancipation in the society. The Organization initiated the “Ten point plan”, which is a reparations program aiming to take compensation from “the former European Colonialists for the Native genocide and African enslavement”. The program suggests the following:

1. A Formal Apology and Establishment of a MAAFA/African Holocaust Institute
2. The Right of Repatriation and Creation of an African Knowledge Program
3. The Right to Land for Social and Economic Development
4. Funds for Cooperative Enterprises and Socially Responsible Entrepreneurial Development
5. Resources for the Health, Wellness and Healing of Black Families and Communities
6. Education for Community Development and Empowerment
7. Affordable Housing for Healthy Black Communities and Wealth Generation
8. Strengthening Black America’s Information and Communications Infrastructure
9. Preserving Black Sacred Sites and Monuments
10. Repairing the Damages of the “Criminal Injustice System”³⁴

As it is understood the issue of slavery reparations has taken a great extend in the United States of America; it is also one of the most discussed and controversial topics in the presidential elections of 2020. The main plan in the United States of America is related to a Congress Bill and to the prosecution of studies on reparations.³⁵

As the years passed, organizations like the United Nations have made various attempts in order to resolve the issue of slavery. A significant example is the creation of the United

³⁴ lbw21.org. (2019). [online] Available at: https://lbw21.org/docs/naarc/NAARC_Preliminary_Reparations_Program.pdf [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

³⁵ Jacob, M. (2019). *The United Nations and Reparations for the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Colonialism — The Michigan Journal of International Law*. [online] The Michigan Journal of International Law. Available at: <http://www.mjilonline.org/the-united-nations-and-reparations-for-the-trans-atlantic-slave-trade-and-colonialism/?fbclid=IwAR0Gt5sN7Ubh10ZNJQkBV-icIWYHB77QMR7d0WKKIdbmhsjkPw9bDyZGY2I> [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

Nations Office on Drug and Crime in 1997 which deals with the issue of human trafficking. Apart from the United Nations there were other international mobilizations like the “No Project”³⁶, which is, also, a campaign against human trafficking.³⁷

Blocs Expected

Countries for reparations	Countries against reparations
Jamaica	UK
Guyana	USA
Antigua and Barbuda	France
Barbados	
Canada	
South Africa	
Haiti	

³⁶ The NO Project. (2019). *The NO Project*. [online] Available at: <https://www.thenoproject.org> [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

³⁷ Anon, (2019). [online] Available at: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html#Which_countries_are_affected_by_human_trafficking [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

11. Conclusion

The topic of Slavery reparations is ambiguous and divides the public opinion. Many questions are posed, but we are sure that through a fruitful debate, you will be able to find the answers and reach an agreement towards the compensations needed or not to be given to the descendants of the African slaves. As the American President Abraham Lincoln once said, “Slavery is founded in the selfishness of man's nature - opposition to it, is his love of justice.”. We all seek justice to prevail, so that the souls of the victims can finally find their peace. But is the way of reparations the right one to do them justice?³⁸

12. Points to be addressed

- Who will be entitled to receive the reparations?
- How will the identity of the real descendants be verified?
- Who will pay for the reparations?
- Why should countries compensate the descendants of the African slaves?
- What form will the reparations take?
- How will the United States tackle the ongoing social injustice against African-Americans?
- How will the states of “the rich North” bridge the wealth gap with “the poor South”?

13. Bibliography

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³⁸ Nps.gov. (2019). *Peoria Speech, October 16, 1854 - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)*. [online] Available at: <https://www.nps.gov/liho/learn/historyculture/peoriaspeech.htm> [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

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14. Further Resources

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcpOn65u--U>
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q_4JVg
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnV_MTFEGlY
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmQvofAiZGA>